

Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Fiscal Note

Senate Amendment S - 5171 to HF 2517 - Education Provisions (LSB 6636 HV.1)
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Fiscal Note Version - Amendment S - 5171

Description

The first operation in Senate Amendment S - 5171 would require that all school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that administer the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) or the Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) annually report to the Department of Education and to the local community test scores for reading, math, language, and science for each grade group in a building and for each grade group in a school district or accredited nonpublic school. The report must include the percentage of students in each grade who scored in each of the four national percentile rankings.

The second operation in Senate Amendment S - 5171 would strike language in HF 2517 requiring school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to report certain graduation statistics consistent with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The third operation in Senate Amendment S - 5171 would require school improvement advisory committees to develop and maintain a longitudinal analysis chart using ITBS or ITED data based on grade-equivalent scores from reading, math, and science tests administered during the same time period each year. The analysis must include average gain scores.

Assumptions

1. Currently, school districts are required to test only in grades 4, 8, and 11 and only in math and reading. Beginning in FY 2003, school districts will be required to test those grades in science, as well. Many school districts are voluntarily testing in grades 3 through 8, and some test in grades 9 through 11 or 12. Some may already be testing in the subject area of language. The extent to which school districts test beyond the requirements is not known. The Amendment would require school districts and nonpublic schools to test at every grade level, K-12, and in four subject areas.
2. The ITBS is not intended for testing in grades K-1. An appropriate testing vehicle would have to be identified for these grades, at an unknown cost.
3. Scoring the ITBS and ITED for additional grades and in additional subjects areas would cost school districts and nonpublic schools \$0.20 per additional student per additional subject area. The cost of adding one new subject area in grades 2-12 statewide would be \$84,000 for public school districts. The total cost to nonpublic schools would be \$6,000. The maximum potential cost to test every public and nonpublic student in all four subjects is \$364,000. How much of this would be new cost is not known due to lack of information on current testing activities and costs.
4. At one time, the Iowa Testing Program made the Building Evaluator's Summary available to schools that use the ITBS and the ITED. This summary report grouped student test scores by the four national percentile rankings and would serve as an appropriate reporting mechanism for purposes of the Department of Education's responsibilities under the Amendment. The Iowa Testing Program and Riverside Publishing Company could reinstate the Building Evaluator's Summary but would require at least one year to do so and would incur developmental and programming costs.
5. Senate Amendment S - 5171 requires school districts to maintain the longitudinal analysis of grade-equivalent scores for the school board's use in determining progress

toward meeting achievement goals. Schools using the ITBS receive, at no additional cost, the grade-equivalent scores necessary to maintain the longitudinal analysis and to calculate average gain scores. Because the ITED does not report grade-equivalent scores, it would not be possible for school districts and nonpublic schools to meet this particular requirement for grades 9 through 12.

6. School districts currently set achievement goals based upon the percentage of students at various proficiency levels rather than grade-equivalent scores. The Amendment would require additional goals using grade-equivalent scores. The Department of Education estimates that the time required to implement this provision would equate to two full days of work by 10 teachers per building at a cost of \$5.2 million for grades K-8 and to obtain grade-equivalent scores for grades 9-12, the cost estimate would increase by \$1.7 million. Some school districts may reallocate funds to compensate staff for these additional duties.

Fiscal Impact

Senate Amendment S - 5171 does not require significant additional expenditures from the General Fund. Local school districts may reallocate funds to compensate staff for additional duties related to the provisions of the Amendment. The cost to local school districts for administering additional tests cannot be accurately estimated due to lack of information on current testing activities and costs.

Sources

The Iowa Testing Program, University of Iowa
Department of Education
Educational Services, Area Education Agency 11

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

March 26, 2002

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.
